



8 FRAUD & ABUSE - PARTICIPANTS

Effective: 3/1/98

8.1 Overview of Participant Fraud and Abuse

POLICY: WIC participants and proxies must abide by the rules of the WIC Program. Acts of fraud and abuse will be investigated and sanctions applied as needed.

PROCEDURE:

A. EXAMPLES

1. Intentionally making a false or misleading statement, or intentionally misrepresenting, concealing or withholding facts pertaining to eligibility determination at certification or recertification
2. Applying for and/or receiving WIC benefits in more than one WIC Program or clinic at the same time
3. Misusing and/or attempting to misuse WIC drafts and/or the foods obtained with WIC drafts
4. Verbal or physical abusive to a store employee or any WIC staff

B. RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Abide by the rules of the WIC Program
2. Read, sign, and comply with WIC Rights and Responsibilities
3. Select and train a responsible proxy, if a proxy is desired. Make sure the proxy signs the ID folder immediately.
4. Participants (women) and parents/guardians of infant/child participants will be held accountable for the actions of the authorized proxy.
5. Prior to signing a draft to be redeemed, ensure that all information is correct, e.g. dollar amount, foods purchased, quantity purchased, etc.

C. RESPONSIBILITY OF PROXIES

1. Abide by the rules of the WIC Program
2. In the case of a minor participant, the parents/guardians will be held responsible for their actions and actions of other authorized proxies



3. In the case of women participants, the woman is responsible for the actions of their authorized proxies
4. Immediately sign the ID folder and follow proper redemption procedures
5. Prior to signing a draft to be redeemed, ensure that all information is correct, e.g. dollar amount, foods purchased, quantity purchased, etc.

D. RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL PROJECT STAFF

1. Assist in ensuring the integrity of the WIC Program through implementation of policies and procedures to prevent fraud and abuse
2. Provide proper notification to participants which informs them of their rights and responsibilities associated with participation in WIC. Ask the participant/proxy to read, or have read to them, the Rights and Responsibilities.
3. Review DAISy and ADP reports, including but not limited to, Dual Participation and Questionable Issuance Reports to detect potential cases of fraud and abuse; follow up as required
4. Investigate and take action of reported and suspected abuse

E. RESPONSIBILITY OF STATE WIC PROGRAM

1. To ensure the integrity of the State WIC Program through development and implementation and monitoring of policies and procedures which will prevent fraud and abuse, as well as policies and procedures for the detection and sanctions associated with fraud and abuse
2. Assist local project staff in the implementation of policies and procedures
3. Assist local project staff in investigations